

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
231 Second Street, Clifton, NJ 07011



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION
FOR CHILDREN/TEENS (R.C.I.A.)**

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." Mark 10:14-15

***MOTHER CABRINI CENTER
97 WASHINGTON AVE.
CLIFTON, NJ 07011***

PHONE: 973-340-1300, EXT. 125 OR 126



***Welcome to St. Paul's Rite of Christian
Initiation Program for Children/Teens
A Journey of Faith***

For Whom is the RCIA for Children/Teens

RCIA for children/teens is intended for children not baptized as infants, who have attained the use of reason and are of catechetical (school) age. They seek Christian initiation either at the direction of their parents or guardians or, with parental permission, on their own initiative. Such children are capable of receiving and nurturing a personal faith and of recognizing an obligation in conscience.

Once readiness is reached, the children/teen will receive the Sacraments of Baptism and/or First Eucharist.

- * **Baptism** for 7-10 year olds from September to Easter.
- * **Baptism and First Eucharist** for 11-17 year olds from September to Easter.

If your child is Baptized in Another Faith...

Those third through fifth grade students who are already baptized but need to receive First Penance and First Eucharist will attend their age-appropriate class on Sundays as well as the monthly classes for Sacramental Preparation. If they have no exposure to Catholic beliefs and practices, however, they should be enrolled the RCIA Program for Children/Teens.

What the Process is...

The process involves prayer, study, activities, and listening to the Word of God through Bible Stories.

- * The process is Jesus-centered. It focuses on Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, and His teachings.
- * It provides opportunities for children to hear the Word of God and to begin to apply the Word to their daily relationships.
- * The program allows children to discover the love of Jesus and to respond to His love by their actions and deeds.



What Amount of Time does this Process Require?

The RCIA is not a class or program. It is a process of conversion. It prepares one to embark on a journey of faith that leads to a lifelong commitment as a Catholic. All Catholics are called to daily conversion and renewal to be on this faith journey.

RCIA stresses the need for a living experience of the Church as a “people of God” and not just “knowledge” about the Church. A person’s desire to turn towards God (conversion) and become connected to a community does not happen instantly, but takes time as the Holy Spirit nurtures that deepening desire within.

The usual length of preparation is approximately seven months, and the initiation of new members is celebrated at the Easter Vigil.



"Our profession of faith begins with God, for God is the First and the Last, the beginning and the end of everything. The Credo begins with God the Father, for the Father is the first divine person of the Most Holy Trinity; our Creed begins with the creation of heaven and earth, for creation is the beginning and the foundation of all God's works."-Catechism of the Catholic Church # 198-

When and Where are the Classes Held?

The RCIA for children/teen classes are held every Sunday from 12 noon to 1:15 pm at the Mother Cabrini Center (MCC). Students must attend Mass every Sunday at St. Paul R.C. Church (RCIA Class Mass is at 9:00 a.m.)

What are the Requirements?

Children are to:

1. Attend weekly Sunday Mass at St. Paul R.C. Church. Pews in the front right of the Church should be used by the RCIA students
2. Attend their scheduled Sunday classes. Due to the nature of our curriculum and the time of preparation, no more than 3 absences will be allowed.
3. Provide copies of Birth Certificate, * current Baptismal Certificate, *First Communion Certificate (if this applies to you).
4. Attend all the Rites and Scrutinies.
5. If your child is going to receive the Sacrament of Baptism he/she will need two (2) Godparents. **Baptismal Godparents Certificates are due March 24, 2024**

Parents are required to attend Orientation Night Tuesday, September 13, 2023 from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm

About the Sacraments of Initiation

The Sacrament of Baptism:

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the Sacrament of regeneration through water in the word." ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1213-***

The Sacrament of the Eucharist

The Lord addresses an invitation to us, urging us to receive him in the Sacrament of the Eucharist: "Truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1384-***

The Sacrament of Confirmation

From this fact, Confirmation brings an increase and deepening of baptismal grace: it roots us more deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, "Abba! Father!", it unites us more firmly to Christ; it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us; it renders our bond with the Church more perfect; it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross: Recall then that you have received the spiritual seal, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence, the spirit of holy fear in God's presence. Guard what you have received. God the Father has marked you with his sign; Christ the Lord has confirmed you and has placed his pledge, the Spirit, in your hearts. ***-Catechism of the Catholic Church #1303-***

Sponsor/Godparent Guidelines

Follow these guidelines when choosing your Baptism or Confirmation Sponsor/Godparents.

Sponsor/Godparents requirements:

- They must be a Baptized Roman Catholic.
- Have done their First Communion and Confirmation.
- If the Godparents are married to each other, they must be married in the Catholic Church.
- If they are married to other people, they must be married in the Catholic Church to their spouse. Should the Godparents be single they must not be living outside of marriage with anyone, and they must be a practicing Catholic.
- Over the age of 18 years old.
- If you are receiving both Baptism and Confirmation, either your Baptism Godfather or Godmother may be your Confirmation Sponsor. You may choose one but not both.
- Sponsor/Godparents must provide a Sponsor/Godparents Certificate from their parish Priest, stating his/her good standing to be a Sponsor or Godparent. They can obtain this by going to the Parish they attend regularly and request it from them.
- If you are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, you are required to choose a Patron Saint Name or remain with your Baptismal Name.



SCHEDULE OF RITES AND SCRUTINIES

9:00am Mass in St. Paul R.C. Church

1. Sunday, October 22, 2023
Rite of Entry
2. Sunday, February 18, 2024
Rite of Sending
Rite of Election@ Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
(time to be determined later in the program)
3. Sunday, February 25, 2024
Rite of Call to Continuing Conversion
4. Sunday, March 3, 2024
First Scrutiny
5. Sunday, March 10, 2024
Second Scrutiny
6. Sunday, March 17, 2024
Third Scrutiny

Saturday, March 20, 2024

Easter Vigil and Reception of the Sacraments

1. Rehearsal at 9:00am
2. Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm (must arrive at St. Paul Church by 7:30pm)



RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA
process who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.

Open their hearts to the fullness of your
love.

Deepen their understanding.

Set their hearts on fire for the
kingdom of God.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the
Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.

Amen.

ST. PAUL R.C. CHURCH
2022-2023 IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Class

Sunday, September 24, 2023.

Feast of St. Francis and Outdoor Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 1, 2023, 4pm at church

All Saints Day Mass (celebrated by lower-level kids)

Sunday, October 29th, 2023, Children's Saint Parade @ 11:00am Mass

All Saints Day

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, and 7pm

All Souls Day

Thursday, November 2, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 5pm and 7pm

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 23rd, 2023, Mass Service at 8am and 7pm

Mass of Nations

Sunday, November 26th, 2023, at 11:00am

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8th, 2023; Mass Service at 8am, 5pm, 7pm

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 11, 2023, at 7pm at church

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

Tuesday, December 12, 2023, Mass Service at 8am, 7pm (mañanitas at 5am)

Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17, 2023, at 5:30 pm at church

Nine Day Christmas Novena/Simbang Gabi

Beginning Friday, December 15, 2023, Mass Service at 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Masses

Sunday, December 24, 2023, Mass Service 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm Spanish

Christmas Day Masses

Monday, December 25, 2023, Mass Service 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm Spanish

Feast of the Holy Family Masses

Sunday, December 31, 2023, All Masses

New Year's Eve Party, Parish Hall (to be determined)

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024, All Masses

The Epiphany of the Lord/Three Kings

Sunday, January 7, 2024, All Masses

The Baptism of the Lord

Monday, January 8, 2024, 8 AM Mass

Conversion of St. Paul Feast Day Masses

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 8 AM, 7 PM Mass

The Presentation of the Lord
Friday, February 2, 2024, 8AM Mass

Feast of St. Blaise/Blessing of the Throats
Saturday, February 3, 2024, and Sunday, February 4, 2024, All Masses

Ash Wednesday Services and Masses
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 8 AM Mass, 12:00 pm Liturgy, 3:00 pm Liturgy, 5:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm Mass

Palm Sunday
Saturday, March 23, 2024, 5PM Mass; Sunday, March 24, 2024, All Masses

Lenten Penance Service
Tuesday, March 26, 2024, 7pm at church

Holy Thursday Mass
Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 7:30pm (Trilingual); 8:30pm to 12:30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in Church

Good Friday Services
Friday, March 29, 2024, at 11:00am Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross, Liturgies: 3:00pm (English), 5:30pm (Spanish) and 7:30pm Tenebrae (Trilingual)

Easter Vigil
Saturday, March 30, 2024; 1:00 pm Blessing of the Food and 8:00pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday
Sunday, March 31, 2024, all Masses

First Communion Day/May Crowning
Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 10:00 am (reception after Mass)

Mother's Day Masses
Saturday, May 11, 2024, 8 am and 5 pm Mass and Sunday, All Masses

The Ascension of the Lord
Sunday, May 12, 2024, All Masses

Pentecost
Saturday, May 18, 2024, 5pm Mass and Sunday, May 19, 2024, All Masses

Confirmation Day
Sunday, May 19, 2024, 11AM Mass, Reception after Mass

Feast of Corpus Christi
Saturday, June 1, 2024, 5 AM Mass, and Sunday, June 2, 2024, All Masses

Father's Day Masses
Saturday, June 15, 2024, 5AM Mass and Sunday, June 16, 2024, All Masses

ST. PAUL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



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